

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 016921

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECTO 1065 ACTION TEL AVIV CAIRO SECSTATE
20 JAN

QUOTE: S E C R E T SECTO 1065

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SADAT

1. FOLLOWING IS A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON MY MEETING WITH SADAT FOR YOUR

USE IN BRIEFING DAYAN THIS EVENING. ATHERTON WILL BE IN A POSITION
TO FILL IN SOME OF THE DETAILS AND ATMOSPHERE WHEN YOU MEET WITH
BEGIN SATURDAY EVENING.

2. I FOUND SADAT IN AN ANGRY MOOD WITH MUCH RESIDUAL BITTERNESS
AND DISTRUST. THIS MODD SEEMS TO BE THE ACCUMULATION OF A SERIES

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 016921

OF DEVELOPMENTS WHICH SADAT HAS PERCEIVED AS CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION
HE FORMED IN HIS INITIAL CONTACT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER THAT
THERE WOULD BE A MORE SWEEPING AND FORTHCOMING RESPONSE TO HIS
TRIP TO JERUSALEM. CENTRAL TO THIS SEEMS TO BE HIS STRONGLY
EMOTIONAL REACTION TO ISRAELI POSITION ON RETAINING SETTLEMENTS
IN SINAI WHICH HE FEELS MAKES A "JOKE" OF THE OFFER TO RETURN ALL
OF SINAI TO EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY.

3. ADDED TO THE FOREGOING WAS THE DIFFICULTY OVER NEGOTIATING AN AGENDA FOR JERUSALEM AND, FINALLY, THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH THE EVENING OF THE DINNER FOR FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL.

4. WHEN MY MEETING WITH HIM BEGAN, SADAT SAID HE HAD DECIDED TO SUSPEND BOTH THE MILITARY AND THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO GIVE A COOLING-OFF PERIOD. ONCE HE HAD GOTTEN HIS SENSE OF BITTERNESS OFF HIS CHEST, I WENT OVER WITH HIM THE LATEST VERSION OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AS DISCUSSED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER LAST NIGHT. SADAT WAS GENERALLY PLEASED AND SURPRISED BY WHAT I TOLD HIM, IN PARTICULAR BY THE NEW PARAGRAPH 3 ON A JUST SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM ALTHOUGH ISRAELI VERSION OF WEST BANK/GAZA PARAGRAPH GIVES HIM PROBLEMS. BY THE END OF OUR MEETING, IQAS ABLE TO PERSUADE HIM QO AGREE TO TWO THINGS. FIRST, HE AGREED TO GO FORWARD WITH THE MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETING. SECONDLY, WHILE NOT WILLING FOR THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO RECONVENE FOR THE TIME BEING, HE AGREED THAT WORK SHOULD CONTINUE ON THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES THROUGH OUR GOOD OFFICES ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

5. BEFORE CONFIRMING THIS LATTER AGREEMENT, HE SAID HE WANTED TO DISCUSS IT WITH HIS ADVISORS BUT I HAVE IMPRESSION HE WILL AGREE. WE DID NOT DISCUSS PRECISELY HOW WORK ON THE PRINCIPLES MIGHT GO FORWARD, BUT MY PRESENT THINKING IS THAT THIS COULD BE DONE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 016921

THROUGH ATHERTON IN THE AREA.

6. WITH RESPECT TO SADAT'S SPEECH TOMORROW, I URGED HIM TO RE- STRAIN HIS RHETORIC. HE SAID HE WOULD SEEK TO KEEP IT DIGNIFIED BUT FELT HE HAD TO RESPOND TO WHAT HE PERCEIVES AS ISRAELI ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS THAT HE CANNOT BE SILENT ABOUT. THEREAFTER, HE AGREES THERE SHOULD BE A QUIET PERIOD TO LET TEMPERS COOL. I DID PERSUADE HIM IN HIS REMARKS TO THE PRESS AFTER OUR MEETING TO STATE THAT THE DOOR TO PEACE IS NOT CLOSED AND THAT HE WANTS TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS.

7. I STRONGLY URGE THAT THE GOI AGREE TO SEND WEIZMAN TO THE RECONVENED MILITARY COMMITTEE TALKS. GIVEN SADAT'S EMOTIONAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SINAI SETTLEMENTS, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THIS ISSUE BE PUT ASIDE FOR NOW WHEN THE TALKS RECONVENE AND THAT DISCUSSION FOCUS ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS BUFFER ZONES, LIMITED FORCES ZONES, DEPLOYMENT OF EGYPTIAN FORCES AND THE FUTURE OF THE AIR- FIELDS. I WOULD ALSO URGE THAT THERE BE A FREEZE ON ANY NEW ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH THE SINAI SETTLEMENTS. SADAT IS FIRMLY DUG IN AND HIGHLY EMOTIONAL ON THIS QUESTION AND NEW SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES COULD START THE WHOLE CHAIN REACTION ALL OVER AGAIN.

8. IN SUM, ISRAELIS SHOULD EXPECT A TOUGH SPEECH BY
SADAT BUT, IN OUR JUDGMENT, THE SITUATION IS NOT SET IN CONCRETE
AND WITH A LITTLE TIME AND EFFORT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET
THINGS MOVING AGAIN. IN COURSE OF OUR MEETING, FOR EXAMPLE,
SADAT WAS TURNING OVER IN HIS MIND THE DESIRABILITY OF BEGINNING
DRAFTING ON A MODEL EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TREATY WHICH HE THOUGHT
MIGHT EVEN BE STARTED IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.

9. NEW SUBJECT: RE TEL AVIV 902, THE TWO POINTS YOU RAISE
IN PARA 2 AND 3 WERE TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS AND SHOULD BE
CORRECTED AS YOU HAVE INDICATED.

VANCE

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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